

AC 4421(3) ST ALBANS

ST. ALBANS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

For the Year 1948

ST. ALBANS

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

1949

ST. ALBANS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

AND THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

For the Year 1948

ST. ALBANS

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

1949

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mrs. N. C. BARBER.

Mrs. M. V. S. CORY-WRIGHT.

Mrs. M. YOUNG.

Mr. W. BEARD.

Mr. E. G. BISHOP.

Mr. C. L. DANIELS.

Mr. G. H. HARTOP.

Mr. A. J. HOPKINS.

Mr. J. V. SMITH.

Mr. T. SPARROW.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

* MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT,

DAVID J. GRAHAM (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f).

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR,

E. J. LEWIS (b) (c) (f).

CLERK.

A. G. PAINE.

CLEANSING FOREMAN.

JAMES A. CROW.

- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (b) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.
- (c) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (d) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
- (e) Member, Royal Sanitary Institute,
- (f) Member, Sanitary Inspectors Association.

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Albans Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the St. Albans Rural District for the year 1948.

I took up my post on 1st September, 1948, and am thus not yet in a position to give a very full report but there are certain outstanding problems to which I feel I must refer.

The state of the streams and sewers is very poor: the River Lea especially so. It receives the effluent from Luton sewerage works which it would not be unfair to say are overloaded. But even if such works produce a reasonably good effluent unless such effluent is reasonably diluted trouble will arise. In dry weather it would appear that the River Lea is approximately 90 per cent. sewerage effluent. The problem of producing an effluent so pure that it can safely form 90 per cent. of a river is a very difficult one.

The other rivers suffer in the same way, and until the Colne Valley main sewer is able to take the sewerage of at least the most populated parts of the district trouble will continue.

Defective housing still remains the most difficult Public Health problem and it is often a very moot point whether a family living in a house which is or should be condemned are in greater need than one living in overcrowded conditions with relatives sharing a kitchen and bathroom.

I wish to thank you for the consideration and help you have always given me. To Mr. Graham and other colleagues I am deeply indebted for their loyal and efficient help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

St. Albans,

18th May, 1949.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (estimated)	...	...	28,090
Area (in acres)	...	...	32,084 viz.—

Parish	Acres
Harpenden Rural	2,854
Redbourn	4,401
St. Michael's Rural	5,403
St. Stephen's Rural	5,157
London Colney	1,752
Colney Heath	2,720
Sandridge	3,572
Wheathampstead	6,225

Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books :—

Dwelling Houses	5,995
Temporary Buildings...	86
Shops with living accommodation	91
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	60
Total	6,232

Rateable Value ... £174,157

Sum represented by a penny rate ... £670

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

			Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	184	190	374
Illegitimate	...	...	19	13	32
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...			14.45
Stillbirths	...	...	—	3	3
Deaths	...	...	97	99	196
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...			6.98

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

			Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of age.

			Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	..	1	—	1
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births					18.1

Births.

The number of births during 1948 was 406.

Deaths.

There were 196 deaths.

The following table shows the Deaths, Births and Infant Mortality Rates since 1930.

YEAR	DEATH RATE	BIRTH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE
1948	6.98	14.54	18.1
1947	9.2	16.5	54
1946	6.6	19.5	29
1945	8.1	15.4	38
1944	7.5	16.1	38
1943	7.0	17.0	27
1942	8.1	15.1	40
1941	8.1	12.9	49
1940	8.1	11.2	40
1939	7.7	15.3	34
1938	8.2	15.1	25
1937	7.1	14.6	20
1936	6.9	15.3	47
1935	6.5	15.0	11
1934	7.9	14.4	32
1933	9.1	12.5	30
1932	8.0	13.3	34
1931	9.2	15.6	42
1930	8.0	14.9	25

The Infant Mortality Rate of 18.1 is very satisfactory and is the lowest since 1935.

Causes of Death.

ALL CAUSES					M. 97	F. 99
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	2
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	...
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...
11	Ac. polio-myel : and polio-enceph :	...	...	...	...	...
12	Ac. inf : enceph. ...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buc : cav : and oesoph ; (M) uterus (F)	...	...	...	2	3
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	2
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	4
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	7	9
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	...
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	10	11
19	Heart diseases	...	...	...	30	35
20	Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	3	6
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	4
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	...
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	2	...
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	3
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	2	2
29	Puer : and post-abortion : sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	2	1
32	Con : mal : birth inj : infant : diseases	...	...	...	4	2
33	Suicide	...	...	...	5	...
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	2	1
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	1	2
36	All other causes	...	...	...	5	6

Birth Rates. Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

		England and Wales.	126 C.B's and Great Towns including London,	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000- 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Admin. County.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births.					
Live Births	..	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	...	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths.					
All Causes	...	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid & Paratyphoid		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 (c)
Whooping Cough	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	...	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	...	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications (corrected).					
Typhoid Fever	...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	...	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	...	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	...	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	...	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths.					
All causes under 1 year of age	...	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age		3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.					
Notifications (corrected).					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
140 Abortion with Sepsis	...	0·11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	...	0·05	4
147 Puerperal infections	...	0·13	
142-146, 148-150 other Maternal causes	... ..	0·73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) In London, Puerperal Fever alone was 0·61.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bricket Wood	The Social Club, Oak Avenue.	a.m.						
		p.m.		Infant Wel- fare (2nd & 4th, Dr, attends 2nd) 2-4				
Cotney Heath	Nurse's Cottage, Mount Pleasant Lane (Garston 2183).			Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9 a.m.				
		a.m.						
	The Pavilion.	p.m.		Infant Welfare (alternate weeks) 2.30-4				
				Minor Ailments—children treated in own homes or at local school.				

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Harpenden	Memorial Hospital (Harpenden 3696)	a.m.	Minor Ailment 9-10	Ophthalmic (1st & 3rd) 9.30-12	Minor Ailment 9.30-12 (Dr. attends)	Dental 9.30-12.30	Minor Ailment, 9-10	Dental (1st & 3rd) 9.30-12.
								Orthopædic (once monthly Surgeon attends).
		p.m.	Ante-Natal 2-4	Dental (2nd, 4th & 5th) 2-5	Infant Welfare 1.45-4.30	Dental 2-5	Speech Therapy 2-5	
London Colney	National Children's Home.	a.m.	Dental 9.30-12					
		p.m.						
		a.m.	Minor Ailment 9.30-10.30	Minor Ailment 9.30-10.30	Minor Ailment 9.30-10.30	Minor Ailment 9.30-10.30	Minor Ailment 9.30-12 Dr. attends alternate wks.	
		p.m.		Infant Welfare (1st & 3rd) 1.45-4.30				

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Redbourn	Congregational Hall	a.m.						
		p.m.		Infant Welfare (1st & 3rd) 2.30-4.30				
	18 Bettespol Meadows (Nurse's residence, Redbourn 251)		Minor Ailments treated 8.15—8.30 and 6.15—6.45.					
St. Albans	The Village Hall, Park Street.	a.m.						
		p.m.	Infant Welfare (2nd & 4th) 1.30-4					
	St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.	a.m.						
		p.m.					Infant Weighing (2nd & 4th) 2.0-4	

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Albans (continued)	Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St. Albans 4926).	a.m.	Minor Ailment 9-12 Doctor attends 9.30 Dental 9.30-12.30 Speech 9.30-12.30	Dental 9.30-12.30 Orthoptic 10.0-12.30 Ophthalmic 10.0-12	Minor Ailment 9.0-10 Dental 9.30-12.30 Ante-Natal 2.30-11.30	Minor Ailment 9.0-10 Dental 9.30-12.30	Orthoptic 10.0-12.30 Dental 9.30-12.30 Ophthalmic 10.0-12 (2nd, 4th & 5th weeks)	Dental 9.30-12
		p.m.	Speech 1.30-4.30 Dental 2.0-5 Immunisa- tion (1st & 3rd) 1.30-3.30	Dental 2.0-5 Infant Welfare. No Doctor. Foods Issued 1.30-4 Ophthalmic 1.30-3.30 (1st, 3rd & 5th week)	Infant Welfare. No Foods Issued. 1.30-4	Dental 2.0-5 Orthoptic 2.0-4.30	Infant Welfare 1.30-4 Orthoptic 2.0-4.30	
	Bricket House, Bricket Road (St. Albans 5431).	a.m.	Orthopædic		Orthopædic		Orthopædic	
		p.m.	Orthopædic		Orthopædic (Surgeon attends 3rd)		Orthopædic (Surgeon attends 2nd)	

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

15

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
St. Albans (continued)	Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St. Albans 2211)	a.m.		V.D. (women) 10.0-12	Post-Natal 11.0			
"		p.m.		V.D. (women) 5.0-7	V.D. (men) 2.0-4		V.D. (women) 2-4 Men 5-7	
"	Chest Clinic, Osterhills Hospital.	a.m.		Children 10.30				
"		p.m.		Adults 2				
"	The Clinic, Hill End (St. Albans 5555).	a.m.	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	
"		p.m.	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	Child Guidance	
"	Fifield House, Manor Road, Lemsford Road (St. Albans 266).		Ophthalmic cases referred to Doctor at his surgery between 9 and 10 a.m. or 6 and 7 p.m., except Tuesday evenings and alternate Saturday evenings. (Cases which cannot be received at his consulting rooms to be seen at Wellington Court Ophthalmic Clinic.					
"	St. Albans & Mid Herts Hospital, Verulam Road.	a.m.				Child Guidance		
		p.m.						

WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS—continued.

Place	Address of Centre and Telephone No.	A.M. or P.M.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sandridge	The Parish Hall, Sandridge.	a.m.						
		p.m.		Infant Weighing (alt. weeks) 2.30-3.30				
	2 Reynold's Crescent, (Nurse's residence) Sandridge.		Minor Ailments treated 4—5 p.m. or in children's own homes, if necessary.					
Shenley			Minor Ailments treated at school. Nurse's address—"Elsyna," Main Road, London Colney. (Telephone—London Colney 3189).					
Wheathampstead	Inez Cottage, Luton Road (Nurse's Residence) Wheathampstead 3123		Minor Ailments treated 8.30—9 a.m.					
	Mead Hall, East Lane	a.m.						
		p.m.					Talks to Mothers (1st week) 3	
							Infant Welfare (2nd & 4th week) 2.30-4 Dr. attends 3	
							Ante-Natal (4th wk.) combined with above	
	The Senior School.	a.m.					Dental (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th week). 9.30-12.30	

Ambulance Service.

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information :—

The County Council assumed authority for the Ambulance Service on the 5th July, 1948, and it will be known that the Service is now operated in conjunction with the Fire Brigade. The vehicles and personnel are housed at the Fire Station, Victoria Street, and all ambulance calls (emergency or otherwise) are dealt with by the Fire Station Watchroom.

Vehicles.

Two ambulances were handed over to the County Council at St. Albans. One of these has been replaced by a new vehicle of the Austin "Welfarer" class. The other has been completely renovated. A third ambulance is available and a sitting case car is on order, but the delivery date is a little uncertain.

Personnel.

The establishment has been raised to twelve professional Ambulance Men, and this provides for one Ambulance to be manned continuously throughout the twenty-four hours and an extra Ambulance during the day-time period. The men work a 44-hour week, plus overtime as necessary, this being the agreed hours of duty under the Award of the appropriate Joint Industrial Council. All men have to qualify for the St. John Ambulance Association's Certificate and receive instruction in emergency maternity work.

Uniform and Equipment.

Each Ambulance has now been fully equipped to an agreed standard, which includes resuscitation apparatus and an emergency maternity pack. Each Ambulance Station also holds an adequate reserve of equipment. The men are provided with two suits of battledress, caps, overcoats, white coats and shoes.

Infectious Cases.

Infectious diseases Ambulances are maintained by the County Council at various Isolation Hospitals, including the Sisters' Hospital, St. Albans; but emergency isolation cases are dealt with by the general ambulances when isolation ambulances are not available. After dealing with such cases the ambulances are disinfected together with all equipment, and where necessary the clothing of personnel is also dealt with. Smallpox cases are not carried by general ambulances.

Calls.

Appended is a schedule giving brief details of the calls handled by St. Albans Ambulances from the 5th July, 1948 to the 21st May, 1949. The figures include several long-distance cases, e.g. journeys to Liverpool, Devon, the South Coast. Taking the County as a whole, calls have increased by roughly 400 per cent. since the Appointed Day.

Accidents	...	...	266
Sudden Illness	...	...	236
Removals	...	...	1621
Maternity	...	..	357
			—
			2480
			—

Hospitals.

I am indebted to F. Stanford, Esq., Secretary, Mid Herts Group Hospital Management Committee for the following information:—

The Ministry of Health under the National Health Service Act, 1946, took over from the 5th July, 1948, the Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road; Sisters' Hospital, Folly Avenue; St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital, Church Crescent, and the Bricket House Nursing Home, Bricket Road.

The administration of these hospitals was delegated to the Mid Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, and the members of this Committee were appointed by the North Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The accommodation at these hospitals as at present constituted is as follows :—

Patients' Beds. Type of Bed.		Osterhills Hospital	Sisters' Hospital.	St. Albans & Mid Herts Hospital	Bricket House	Hill End Hospital
General ...	...	54	...	95	10	365
Chronic Sick	...	65	...	15	...	...
Fever ...	...	...	94	...	...	...
Sick ...	...	25	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	...	6	...	...	...	10
Mental ...	...	...	...	...	...	* { 139 204
Maternity	...	44	...	...	5	...
Others ...	...	6	...	...	...	66
TOTALS....	...	200	94	110	15	* { 139 645

In addition to these beds, accommodation is also provided for 179 aged and infirm persons for and on behalf of the Hertfordshire County Council.

*Unstaffed Beds.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home where a request is made personally or at the request of the Doctor in attendance.

All notifications of measles and whooping diseases where skilled nursing is particularly necessary are passed on at once to the District Nurses so that if she has not already been called in she can offer her services.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the area received close attention and a total of 47 samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Early in the year local mains were extended to serve Old Bricket Wood in the Parish of St. Stephen's, and to Amwell, Nomansland, and Bower Heath in the Parish of Wheathampstead.

In April the Council accepted the responsibility for supplying direct from their mains the fifty-nine houses on Miss Walker's Estate at Redbourn which up to that date relied on a private supply.

In June the Aubrey Estate, Hempstead Road, Redbourn, was afforded a metered bulk supply from the Council's mains, the water being distributed to the various properties on the Estate through existing privately owned reservoir and mains. Negotiations are proceeding with a view to the acquisition by the Council of the reservoir and internal mains on the Estate and the acceptance of full responsibility for the supply.

By the end of the year arrangements had been completed for the installation of a piped supply to serve the hamlet of Horseshoes in the Parish of Colney Heath where the existing well supplies gave cause for concern.

A scheme for a mains supply to the isolated hamlet of Coleman Green is under consideration.

Four Notices were served under Section 138 of the Public Health Act 1936, requiring the provision of supplies of wholesome water in occupied houses.

Of the 6,232 dwellings in the district, 5,546 or 88·99 per cent. are supplied from Waterworks. Of those served from Waterworks, 93·98 per cent. are supplied from water mains direct to the houses, and the remaining 6·02 per cent. by means of standpipes. The quality of the mains waters is satisfactory, and the supplies are constant. There is no evidence of liability to plumbo-solvent action.

In Appendix "A" to this Report details are given regarding the number of dwellings served by each Water Undertaking supplying in the St. Albans Rural District, and in Appendix "B" figures are furnished with respect to dwellings in each Parish which are supplied from Waterworks.

Appendix A.

List of Water Suppliers operating in the St. Albans Rural District and Number of dwellings supplied by each.

SUPPLIER	Number of Dwellings Supplied		Total
	DIRECT TO THE HOUSES	BY MEANS OF STAND-PIPES	
St. Albans Rural District Council :—			
Redbourn	760	40	800
Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply)	33	14	47
St. Albans Waterworks Company	2593	67	2660
Harpenden Water Company	747	137	884
The Barnet District Gas & Water Company	375	16	391
The Colne Valley Water Company	212	60	272
Borough of Hemel Hempstead	26	...	26
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company	34	...	34
Hill End Hospital and Cell Barnes Colony Estates	111	...	111
Napsbury Hospital Estate	49	...	49
Middlesex Colony Estate	32	...	32
Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Property (Plant operated by Crown Commissioners)	69	...	69
Christinas Estate, Bricket Wood	103	...	103
Childwickbury Estate, St. Albans	68	...	68
Totals	5212	334	5546

WATER SUPPLIES.

Details of dwellings in each Parish supplied from Waterworks.

Parish	Water Undertakers supplying in Parish.	Number of dwellings supplied		Total number of dwellings supplied by each Undertaker.	Total number of dwellings in Parish supplied from Waterworks	Percentage of dwelling houses in Parish supplied from Waterworks
		Direct to the Houses.	By means of Standpipes.			
Sandridge ...	St. Albans Waterworks Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	491 6	55 ...	546 6	552	90·34
Wheathampstead...	Harpenden Water Company ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	690 5	120 ...	810 5	815	83·93
Harpenden Rural...	Harpenden Water Company ...	57	17	74	74	64·35
Redbourn ...	St. Albans Rural District Council Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... Childwickbury Estate Supply ...	760 25 8 7	40	800 25 8 7	840	92·92
St. Michael's Rural	Borough of Hemel Hempstead ... St. Albans Waterworks Company Childwickbury Estate Supply ... Gorhambury Estate Supply (Crown) Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co.	18 32 50 44 17	... ... ... ... ...	18 32 50 44 17	161	77·78
St. Stephen's ...	The Colne Valley Water Company ... St. Albans Waterworks Company Christmas Estate, Bricket Wood Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Co. Middlesex Colony Estate Supply ...	173 1036 103 17 15	43 12	216 1048 103 17 15	1399	89·11
London Colney and Colney Heath	St. Albans Waterworks Company The Colne Valley Water Company Middlesex Colony Estate Supply Napsbury Hospital Estate Supply Hill End Hospital Supply ... The Barnet District Gas & Water Company Tyttenhanger Green Main (Water drawn from Hill End Hospital Supply)	1034 39 17 49 111 375 33	... 17 16 14	1034 56 17 49 111 391 47	1705	91·96

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars can be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Rivers and Streams.

The condition of the River Lea continues to be unsatisfactory by reason of serious pollution by sewage effluent. Bathing and paddling in the river must be regarded as unsafe.

Many other streams are grossly polluted, but until the main Colne Valley sewer reaches the area it is impossible to adequately deal with this nuisance. Plans have been prepared for the laying of the necessary branch sewers and it is hoped that the work will be carried out *pari passu* with the main sewer so that as soon as the latter becomes available the branch sewers can be connected thereto.

Public Cleansing.

Details of this work are set out on another page, but here I would refer to the vexed question of the provision of "covered dustbins for the reception of house refuse of such material, size and construction as the authority may approve." The dustbin occupies an important place in the maintenance of hygienic conditions in the vicinity of the home and plays a vital part in any scheme of refuse collection, and it is regrettable that the law on the question of whether the owner or the occupier of a building shall be held responsible for the provision of a standard type dustbin is so vague in its terms and so uncertain in its operation.

Swimming Baths.

There are two swimming baths not under the Council's management which are open to the public and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors they are used extensively by the schools. At each the system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season and samples were taken at regular intervals.

A pool which is maintained in connection with a private Recreation Club and used by a considerable number of the members was the cause of some concern because of the very slow rate at which the water is changed and the inadequate arrangements for purification.

Bye-Laws made under Section 233 of the Public Health Act 1936 with respect to Swimming Baths and Bathing Pools not under the Council's management were confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 7th May, 1948, and came into operation on the 1st April, 1949.

SECTION D.**HOUSING.**

Five houses which had been the subjects of confirmed clearance orders prior to the outbreak of war and which had been occupied under licence were vacated and the occupation licences withdrawn. At the end of the year action was being taken to require their demolition. One condemned house which had been vacated in 1947 was demolished.

At the 31st December, 1948, twenty houses which are the subject of confirmed demolition or clearance orders were being used under licence for human habitation.

Because of the very unfit state of the buildings and in anticipation of proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, the owner of a group of eight houses in the Parish of Redbourn gave a written undertaking to the effect that should the dwellings be vacated they shall not again be used for human habitation.

Towards the end of December official representations in respect of a group of eleven houses at Redbourn were placed in the hands of the Clerk to the Council for consideration by the Council under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

I am indebted to Miss C. I. Sharpe, the Council's Housing Welfare Officer for the following analysis of house lettings for the three years ended 31st December, 1948.

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE LETTINGS FOR 1946—1948 INCLUSIVE.

Parish	Year	New Houses	Old Houses Relet	Requisitioned or Acquired	Huts	Total	No. of Families Housed Own Parish	No. of Families Housed Out of Parish	Total	Sum Total in Three Years
London Colney ...	1946	5	—	2	—	7	7	—	7	54
	1947	11	3	—	—	14	11	2	13	
	1948	8	1	—	—	9	9	25	34	
Redbourn ...	1946	6	3	—	—	9	8	—	9	38
	1947	6	3	2	—	11	10	—	10	
	1948	12	3	—	—	15	15	4	19	
St. Stephen's ...	1946	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	35
	1947	—	1	—	—	1	1	7	8	
	1948	22	—	—	—	22	18	8	26	
Colney Heath ...	1946	—	2	—	3	5	5	—	5	32
	1947	4	4	1	—	9	7	—	7	
	1948	16	1	—	—	17	17	3	20	
Sandridge ...	1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
	1947	11	—	—	—	11	8	—	8	
	1948	39	—	1	—	40	17	4	21	
Wheathampstead ...	1946	8	2	4	3	17	17	—	17	66
	1947	15	2	7	—	14	21	—	21	
	1948	30	1	1	—	32	27	1	20	
St. Michael's ...	1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
	1947	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	
	1948	—	—	—	17	17	3	—	3	
Harpenden Rural... ..	1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
TOTAL ...		193	27	19	23	262	204	58	262	262

SECTION E.**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****Registrations under Section 14—****Food and Drugs Act 1938.**

Thirty-three premises are used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream or preserved food, etc. Of these, twenty-three are registered for the sale of ice cream and six are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

Of the six premises registered in respect of the manufacture of ice cream only three were actually used for the purpose. In one of these there is a fairly substantial output but the existing facilities were not regarded as satisfactory, and arrangements are being made by the proprietors to instal an up-to-date plant in a suitable building.

Other Food Preparing Premises.

In the district there are nine bakehouses, four fish-frying premises and fourteen cafes. Of the last named, ten cater in the main for road transport workers.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.

Disease					Total Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	37	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	2	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	1	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	94	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	179	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	19	...

(b) Infectious Diseases (Ages),

Age Periods	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Dysentery
0 —	12	15	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
1 —	23	48	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
3 —	30	50	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5 —	24	57	16	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
10 —	2	3	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
15 —	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	1
25 —	2	4	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	5
45 —	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5
TOTALS ...	94	179	37	1	4	1	1	2	1	19

Scarlet Fever.

This term covers a group of thirty odd different diseases. The first attack of any one of them usually produces a rash, and is therefore notified. Subsequent attacks by other members of the group usually do not show a rash, but have all the other features of the disease. They are usually not notified. From this it follows that roughly only five to ten per cent. of the Scarlet Fever group of diseases are, in fact, notified.

To isolate such five to ten per cent. cases obviously would produce no effect whatever on the incidence of the disease on the general population. I therefore recommend that Scarlet Fever should not be admitted to hospital unless (a) The patient is so ill as to require hospital treatment, or (b) Is placed in such circumstances as to present a particularly dangerous source of infection to the general public, for example—in a dairy or other food store.

The fact that the disease is thirty odd different diseases means that to admit cases into hospital they run, in hospital, a serious risk of getting one of the other thirty different types unless they can be separately isolated in a cubicle.

It follows also that to exclude contacts of Scarlet Fever from school, and, at the same time, allow contacts of Scarlet Fever without a rash to remain at school, is completely useless. I have, therefore, allowed contacts of Scarlet Fever to attend school, but they should be kept at home if they show any signs of a sore throat, whether they have a rash or not.

Cancer.

The facilities for diagnosis are General Practitioners and Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was 28, allocated as follows:—

			M.	F.
Buc : Cav : and Oesoph (M)	Uterus (F) ...		2	3
Stomach and Duodenun	...	...	1	2
Breast	...	...	—	4
All other sites	...	...	7	9

Notification of Tuberculosis.

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1948 was as follows:—

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Male	Female	Male	Female	
78	16	64	22	180

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1948

Work under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Two hundred and twenty-eight complaints of alleged nuisances were received and of these one hundred and ninety-seven were satisfactorily dealt with by informal action leaving thirty-one outstanding at the end of the year.

Four Statutory Notices were served under Section 50 in respect of overflowing cesspools. Three of these related to the cesspool at one house but eventually the drainage system at the premises was connected to the public sewer in accordance with a notice served under Section 39.

Thirty-four pail closets were replaced by water closets of which thirty were in response to informal notices and the remaining four as the result of the service of statutory notices.

Following informal and formal action under Section 45 adequate flushing facilities were provided in connection with eleven existing water closets.

Eighty-one informal notices were issued requiring the provision of dustbins and in nine of these cases it was found necessary to serve statutory notices under Section 75. The notices were in all cases served on the owners after careful consideration of all the circumstances and all were complied with.

Disinfestation.

Twelve houses were treated for the eradication of bed-bugs by the application of DDT preparations.

Rodent Control.

The Hertfordshire County Council enforces the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, and an arrangement is in operation whereby the work of rodent control is carried out by the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee on behalf of the County Council.

At the end of the year the question of the delegation of the County Council's powers under the Act to the County District Councils was under consideration.

Moveable Dwellings.

On the 31st December, 1948, thirty-six licences issued under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 were in operation, being an increase of nine over the figure at 31st December, 1947.

The circumstances of many of the occupants of moveable dwellings were such as to demand the exercise of very wide discretion in the granting of licences, but by securing their co-operation it was possible in many instances to prevent the use of unsuitable sites.

Contact was maintained with the Planning Authority in connection with any proposed new camping sites and it is already evident that the valuable provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 must play an increasingly important part in securing effective control. In this area, however, the problem of moveable dwellings is in the main a temporary one as the majority of families residing therein will undoubtedly take over permanent dwellings at the very first opportunity.

Sewerage.

No sewers are available in the following areas :—

- (a) the whole of the Parish of St. Stephen's Rural except for a privately constructed sewer which serves 103 houses forming the Christmas Estate.
- (b) certain developed localities within the Parish of Wheat-hampstead and particularly the Luton Road locality.
- (c) a considerable area within the Parish of Colney Heath, and particularly Colney Heath Lane, Hatfield Road, Sandpit Lane, Tyttenhanger Green, and the Main Road, Tollgate Road, and Roestock Lane, Colney Heath.
- (d) that part of London Colney which lies south of the River Colne.
- (e) the whole of the Parish of St. Michael's Rural.
- (f) the whole of the Parish of Harpenden Rural.

A rider sewer to serve an accommodation road lying off Hempstead Road, Redbourn, was completed in February.

A scheme for the construction of a sewer of approximately 390 yards in length to serve eighteen properties in Luton Road,

Kinsbourne Green, was approved, and agreement was reached with the Harpenden Urban District Council to accept the sewerage therefrom into their sewers.

The proposed sewerage scheme to serve the Parish of St. Stephen's and link up with the Colne Valley Sewerage Board's proposed trunk sewer was the subject of a Public Local Enquiry on the 27th October, 1948. The Minister of Health subsequently intimated his approval in principle to the proposals and there are grounds for hoping that the scheme will be completed by 1951.

Discussions continued with respect to the proposed scheme for the Lower Luton Road area of Wheathampstead and had reached an advanced stage by the end of the year.

Because of the bad sanitary conditions in the unsewered areas of the Parish of Colney Heath and in that part of London Colney which lies south of the River Colne, the question of the provision of sewerage facilities for those localities is one of very great urgency. The unsuitable siting of the two small existing sewage disposal works at Colney Heath emphasizes the very urgent nature of the problem.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	19	11	...	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	77	5	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) ...	5	8	...	Nil
TOTAL ...	82	96	5	Nil

2—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1	...	1	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	4	1	...	...	...
(a) insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	7	3	Nil	1	Nil

Milk.

The standard of milk production continues to maintain a satisfactory level and 62·26 per cent. of the registered farms are licensed for the production of designated milks. The buildings at two farms were reconditioned during the year.

There are fifty-three registered cowsheds in use. These are located as follows :—

Parish			
Harpenden Rural ...	...	...	3
Redbourn ...	...	...	10
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	6
London Colney ...	...	...	2
Colney Heath ...	...	...	3
St. Stephen's Rural	...	...	12
Sandridge ...	...	...	9
Wheathampstead ...	...	...	8
			—
			53
			—

The following licences are in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Order :—

Designation.	Number	Licencing Authority
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Production of) ...	... 20 ...	County Council.
Accredited Milk (Pro- duction of) ...	... 13 ...	County Council.
Supplementary Licences respecting the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk	... 6 ...	Sanitary Authority.
Supplementary Licences respecting the sale of Pasteurised Milk ...	... 6 ..	Sanitary Authority.

The number of registered retailers actively engaged in the distribution of milk in the district is twenty-two.

Biological Samples of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli.

Under the provisions of Section 25 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, the County Council operates a comprehensive scheme whereby representative milk samples are taken at regular intervals for biological examination from all herds in the County other than licensed Tuberculin Tested and Attested Herds.

Meat Inspection.

During the year 9,818 animals were slaughtered by the Ministry of Food at the Government Slaughterhouse, Sandridge. Details are as follows:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcases inspected	2,691	952	1,056	4,952	167

Condemnations.

	Carcases	Quarters of Beef	Heads	Livers	Lights	Plucks	Miscel- laneous Pieces of Beef, Mut- ton and Pork.
Beasts...	41	31	427	678	645	...	1514 lbs.
Calves...	3	...	...	...	...	3
Sheep ...	4	...	...	19	...	3
Pigs ...	4	...	9	1	...	2	

I am grateful to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, City of St. Albans and his Staff for their co-operation in these onerous duties.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Four side-loading vehicles were operated, three being in constant service and one held as a spare machine. Collections were made at intervals from ten to eleven days. Each vehicle is fitted to haul a salvage trailer.

A new Shelvoke and Drewry 11·3 cubic yard capacity dust wagon was delivered on the 14th December, and it is hoped that in the New Year it will be possible to give a once-weekly collection.

All refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping. In October arrangements were made to use an old gravel pit at Tyttenhanger Green thus bringing the number of tips in use up to three, viz :—

the gravel pit at Nomansland, Sandridge taking refuse from the north eastern and north western parts of the district ;

the chalk pit at Hedges Farm, Harper Lane, near Radlett, taking refuse from the south western part of the district ;

the gravel pit at Tyttenhanger Green, taking refuse from the south eastern part of the district:

All these pits are readily accessible, dry, and within easy range of the collecting points and so disposal costs are low. Together they constitute an asset of very considerable value and it is of the utmost importance that at all times they shall be efficiently controlled and carefully conserved in order that they may be available for the longest possible period. At the same time any opportunity to secure additional sites within the district for future needs should not be lost.

Salvage.

The following salvage was disposed of during the year ended 31st December, 1948:—

	Tons	cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Bottles ...	23	18	1	—	169	12	1
Paper ...	58	4	1	14	393	15	2
Rags ...	1	7	—	10	27	1	8
Brass ...	—	—	—	14		5	0
Totals ...	83	9	3	10	£590	13	11

Nightsoil Collection.

A once-weekly collection is made wherever the service is required. One vehicle operated by one man is engaged on the work, and the nightsoil is deposited on agricultural land. In all 618 pails are dealt with as follows:—

Parish	Pails
St. Stephen's Rural ...	125
London Colney ...	31
Colney Heath ...	194
Sandridge ...	26
Wheathampstead ...	148
Harpenden Rural ...	15
Redbourn ...	77
St. Michael's Rural ...	2
	618

Cesspool Emptying.

A new vehicle having been delivered in July, a fleet of five Dennis cesspool emptying machines is now operated. All cesspools excepting those serving properties which are within 100 feet of a public sewer and which are at a level which makes it reasonably practicable to construct a drain to communicate with a public sewer are cleansed free of charge. The contents are discharged into sewers or on to agricultural land at selected sites, but in the Parish of St. Stephen's a field of 15 acres on Holt's Farm is used solely for the purpose.

Unfortunately a very high percentage of the cesspools are not watertight and so the nature of the subsoil, the level of the subsoil water, and the prevailing weather conditions, have an important influence on the rate at which the cesspools fill up. In these circumstances, and particularly whenever there is a prolonged period of wet weather, the task is a most formidable one. In spite of all this it has been possible to comply in the main with requests within the statutory period of seven days. The service which the Council has thus been able to offer is one in which they can justifiably take pride and is one in which the householders concerned have frequently expressed appreciation.

But wherever there is development to any extent the storage of sewage in cesspools must be regarded as only a make-shift arrangement and there are high hopes that over the next three or four years the bulk of the cesspools in the Parish of St. Stephen's and in the Luton Road area of Wheathampstead will be eliminated and the number of cesspools in the district thereby reduced very substantially. It is hoped too that the sewerage schemes now contemplated will make it possible to eliminate practically all the cesspools in the Parish of Colney Heath and in that part of the Parish of London Colney lying south of the River Colne within a reasonable period.

In Appendix C to this report, statistics are given with respect to cesspools which are cleansed by the Council.

Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. Section 26.

Under consents granted by the Hertfordshire County Council and the St. Albans Rural District Council four sites in the Rural District were used for the disposal of refuse collected outside the Rural District as follows :—

Land on the south side of Codicote Road, Wheathampstead, known as Black Bridge Tip and owned and operated by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

An old gravel pit at North Orbital Road, Smallford, in the Parish of Colney Heath, owned by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

Part of a field on the north side of Park Lane, Colney Heath, owned and occupied by Mr. S. G. Turner. (The period in respect of which consent was granted, expired at 31st December, 1948).

Disused gravel pit at Broad Colney in the Parish of London Colney, owned and operated by Messrs. Inns & Company of London.

Appendix C.

STATISTICS RESPECTING CESSPOOLS IN THE DISTRICT WHICH ARE CLEANSED BY THE COUNCIL.

Parish	Number Cleansed on request	Number Cleansed at regular intervals	Totals	Cesspools already included in Column 4 but in respect of which a charge is made for cleansing because they are within 100 feet of a Sewer or for other reasons	Cesspools already included in Column 4 which although within 100 feet of a Sewer are, for various reasons, cleansed free of charge
(1) St. Stephen's	(2) 819	(3) 12	(4) 831	(5) Nil	(6) Nil
London Colney	24	5	29	5	Nil
Colney Heath	173	9	182	3	Nil
Sandridge	23	Nil	23	4	Nil
Wheathampstead	182	4	186	11	1
Harpenden Rural	57	Nil	37	Nil	Nil
Redbourn	47	Nil	47	5	4
St. Michael's	63	Nil	63	Nil	Nil
Grand Totals	1368	30	1398	28	5

